

Ohio Beetles Bulletin

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Edited By: Ken Karns

Species@columbus.rr.com

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Staphylinidae: ***Philotermes pilosus*** Kraatz

The Ohio Beetles Bulletin (OBB) was developed to provide the Ohio Coleopterists membership a means of communication between issues of the Ohio Coleopterists Newsletter. Prior methods of communication via e-mail messages lacked the substance and sophistication the OC membership deserves. It is hoped the OBB will fill this void and provide an informative and enjoyable means of sharing information on the fascinating world of Beetles.

"When we have experienced the atavistic joy of collecting in the open air and the manipulative pleasure of setting and mounting our chosen beetles there follows the refined intellectual delight of naming them with precision".

Quote by G.B. Walsh taken from the first edition of the Coleopterists Handbook. W.J.B. Crotch, General Editor London, December 1953.

Cover Photo: The rarely collected termitophilous Staphylinidae ***Philotermes pilosus*** Kraatz. Collected under rocks on open rocky hillside with termites. 24-April-2009, Ross County, Ohio. Collected and Photographed by Ken Karns. M.K. Thayer determination. (specimen 3.2 mm)

2009 In Review

A Good Year For Ohio Beetles

Looking back over my collection records for 2009, it was clearly a great year for rare, unusual, and seldom collected beetles. I'm leaning towards the assumption it was a combination of focused and dedicated collecting and favorable overall conditions in the field. The Ohio Coleopterists kicked off the 2009 field schedule with a trip to Crane Hollow Saturday April 18th, hosted by Gary and Holly Covert. The trip was well attended by myself, Josh Bryant, Ben Diehl, George Keeney, Dick Maxey, and of course the hosts Gary and Holly. Gary suggested we concentrate on the extreme southern end of Crane Hollow and we began our collecting at the confluence of a small stream that runs through Crane Hollow and Pine Creek. The recommendation was a good one as the collecting along the creek was very good and typical of the early spring collecting along many of the streams in this part of the state. The multitude of nice sand bars with a generous covering of leaf litter and debris created the ideal habitat for the rarely collected Lucanid **Nicagus obscurus** LeConte. In most cases this beetle is rarely collected but can be locally abundant. We all were able to collect reasonable series of both males and the scarce, sexually dimorphic, females. Both look like small scarabs and not your typical Lucanidae. As a bonus there were a fair number of the equally seldom seen scarab **Cremastocheilus canaliculatus** Kirby taken under the leaf litter and debris. This was a real treat as these guys are never collected in big numbers and often very localized.



Cremastocheilus canaliculatus Kirby. Collected under leaf litter and sandy debris. 18-APR-2009 Hocking County, Ohio. KD Karns Collection/Photo (specimen 7.0 mm)

Ben was the first to spot our next unusual suspects. Of course it helps to have "young eyes" for that sort of thing. Ben spotted several beetles on the wing around a fallen *Liriodendron tulipifera* L. (Tulip Poplar). Thanks to Gary and Holly for the determination of the tree species, makes us all look smart when we put it on our labels. In short order we observed numerous specimens of this yet unknown beetle both flying and crawling rapidly over the trunk of the tree. Some were observed in copula. George Keeney suspected it was a species of Lymexylonidae which is exactly what it turned out to be. Ben had discovered another rarely collected beetle **Elateroides lugubris** (Say). I had never collected this beetle previously however, Gary was quite sure he had encountered this beetle in the Crane Hollow area before but not in these numbers. In researching this beetle I came across the following notation in Blatchley's Coleoptera of Indiana in which Blatchley quotes Thomas Say's observation of **Elateroides lugubris** "observed it in considerable numbers on the 16th of April, flying about a prostrate sugar maple and running briskly upon it". Replace the tree species and it's spot on to our observation. Say also observed a color form, as a

variation of the more common dark form, that has the elytra dull yellowish on the basal half. Only a few of the specimens we observed exhibited this "yellow" color variation (see illustration on the following page). No other really significant finds were recorded and due to the activity and great collecting we barely covered a few hundred yards of the creek. Josh got wet, we all got nice beetles, and we all got to get back there again!



The family Lymexylidae is relatively small with two confirmed US/Canada genera; Elateroides and Melittomma and a third of somewhat questionable status; Atractocerus. All included genera are monotypic. Both **Elateroides lugubris** (Say) and **Melittomma sericeum** (Harris) occur in the Northeast and are represented in the author's collection from Ohio.

References: ARNETT, R.H. et.al. 2002 American Beetles, Volume 2. Family: Lymexylidae by Daniel K. Young

Elateroides lugubris (Say) Lymexylidae
18-APR-2009, Hocking County, Ohio
KD Karns Collection/Photo
Specimens displaying typical color forms
(specimens 10, 12.5 mm)

OHIO COLEOPTERA

Misc. 2009 Collection Records From the Ken Karns Collection

The following records were selected based on unique captures and observations and those species which appear to be localized and only rarely encountered. They also serve to function as future subjects for further study and feature material for additional issues of the Ohio Beetles Bulletin.

Bothrideridae: Oxylaemus americanus LeConte (6) 21-May-2009, Ross County, Ohio. UV Bucket Trap

Cerambycidae: Neoclytus horridus (LeConte) (18) 24-April-2009, (10) 26-April-2009, Ross County, Ohio
Beating dead *Quercus* sp.
Euderces pini (Olivier) (1) 24-April-2009, Ross County, Ohio. Beating dead *Quercus* sp.

Cerophytidae: Cerophytum pulsator (Haldeman) (1) 31-April-2009, Ross County, Ohio. UV Bucket Trap

Colydiidae: Eudesma undulata (Melsheimer) (5) 24-April-2009, (10) 26-April-2009, (5) 31-April-2009, (2) 01-May-2009, (7) 07-May-2009, (4) 18-June-2009, Ross County, Ohio. Headlamping on cut *Quercus* sp. logs.

Staphylinidae: Lordithon axillaris (Gravenhorst) (1) 19-Sept-2009, Vinton County, Ohio. Collected on "Hen of the Woods" Polypore fungus, *Grifola frondosa* (Fr.)
Megalopinus rufipes (LeConte) (1) 22-Aug-2009, (5) 28-Aug-2009, (6) 13-Sept-2009, Ross County, Ohio. Under dead cut *Quercus* sp. logs with fungus.
Megalopinus caelatus (Grav.) (1) 13-Sept-2009, Ross County, Ohio. Under dead cut *Quercus* sp. logs with fungus.
Philotermes pilosus Kraatz. (5) 24-April-2009, Ross County, Ohio. Under rocks with termites.

Tenebrionidae: Dioedus punctatus LeConte (11) 19-June-2009, Ross County, Ohio. Berlese sample of red rotten *Quercus* sp.
Pentaphyllus pallidus LeConte (8) 07-June-2009, Vinton County, Ohio. Under *Quercus* sp. bark